

9-16-2010

## Montana Kaimin, September 16, 2010

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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# montanakaimin

Volume CXIII Issue 10

[www.montanakaimin.com](http://www.montanakaimin.com)

Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010

FEATURE PHOTO

## Finding a Rhythm



Gabe Palmer (left) and Anastasia Gore (right) work on their rhythm during band practice Wednesday afternoon.

Greg Lindstrom/Montana Kaimin

CAMPUS

## ASUM leadership changes hands

**Emily Downing**  
Montana Kaimin

The theme of Wednesday night's ASUM meeting quickly became musical chairs.

The appointment of a new senator to the seat left vacant by Sen. Alex Short was followed by the announcement of Sen. Mandi Summers' resignation.

Sophomore Dani Mackey was recommended and unanimously approved for the seat after going through an inter-

view process by a committee of ASUM senators. The position that she is filling is one that has been vacant since the beginning of the semester.

Sen. Kayla Hoggatt, who was head of the interview committee, said Mackey's past experience with the parliamentary procedure made her stand out among the 12 other candidates for the position.

"We figured she had a lot of extensive experience that would make her work well

with the rest of the senate," said Hoggatt.

Mackey said her past involvement with the Greek system, the Davidson Honors College and various other organizations have shown her the positive things that can be achieved through student government. She said she is looking forward to understanding more about student body issues and learning about what she can do to help solve problems.

"I'm excited to see what

we can accomplish through ASUM," Mackey said. "I'm sorry that [the student body] was not part of the decision for me to be a senator, but I'm looking forward to serving students."

ASUM Business Manager Trent Hanson expressed his confidence in Mackey's ability to serve the student body.

"I think she will be a vocal senator and stand up for the students," he said.

See ASUM, page 5

MONTANA

## City weighs impact of Exxon rigs

**Alyssa Small**  
Montana Kaimin

One of Missoula's busiest streets could see a new and disruptive breed of traffic in the upcoming months.

In April 2009, ExxonMobil began talks with the Montana Department of Transportation about moving approximately 200 oversize loads of oil-mining machinery across Idaho and western Montana to Alberta, Canada, where the Kearl Oil Sands are located. And they want to start soon.

The loads, which are as wide as two lanes of traffic and 210 feet long, would enter Missoula on U.S. Highway 93, travel along Reserve Street and follow Interstate 90 to the Bonner exit. From there they'll continue north to Sweet Grass and the Canadian border.

According to MDT Director Jim Lynch, the department realized early on that the project deserved more consideration before it issued any permits.

"Some of the infrastructure that they're going to be traveling on can't handle them," he said. "Some highways have overpasses, and these big rigs won't fit under those, so they can't take those routes. Others can't handle the weight of them."

The MDT is currently reviewing comments from the Montana public. Though the end date of reviewing these comments had been scheduled for mid-August, that date has been extended to sometime in September.

Lynch said the environmental assessment, which will include the responses to the public comments, could yield one of three results:

See BIG RIG, page 3



70°F | 50°F

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EDITORIAL

# Puff, puff, past

by Joe Pavlish, News Editor

Twenty-five feet from the nearest building, I watch the red glow as I feel the warmth of the smoke down my throat. The smoke from my vanilla pipe tobacco smells delicious, and according to our science columnist, David Elison, it's keeping Parkinson's at a distance.

Then I see the people around me taking a wide turn around the corner or opting for the other side of the sidewalk. I kind of like the smoke's force-field effect.

Next fall, my buffer will disappear when the University of Montana's tobacco-free policy kicks in. The new policy will ban smoking and chewing tobacco on campus.

UM's Tobacco Task Force's goal, according to its Curry Health Center website, is "to promote a safe, healthy and clean environment."

I don't smoke my pipe to be cool, although it does make me feel at least 70 years old. And I definitely don't smoke it to meet people because, well, I'm the only person I've seen under 70 years old who smokes a pipe, and I don't fit into the cigarette circles.

However, Curry Health Center Health Enhancement Director Linda Green said students do take up smoking to meet people. She said Americans are more likely to start using tobacco at 18 to 24 years old than at any other age range.

It's true, I can't count the amount of times I've heard people introduce themselves with, "Hey, do you have a light?" or, "Can I bum a drag?" and then stay for a conversation and a smoke.

Green said that first and foremost, the new policy is to ensure public health. We've all heard the statistics on how secondhand smoke can have the same effects on the body as smoking itself and how it can trigger asthma attacks.

I'm not even asthmatic, but I've walked through the wall of smoke outside of the Liberal Arts building and felt like I couldn't run for a week. That's enough of a statistic for me.

The problem people have is that one person's health is viewed higher than another's. Well, air is public. It's not wrong to be naked; it is wrong to be naked where other people have to see it. It's not wrong to smoke; it is wrong to smoke where other people's health is in jeopardy.

Green said that eliminating secondhand smoke is the goal, but she also hopes the new policy will decrease the number of smokers in Missoula.

"The more inconvenient it is to smoke, the more it supports quitting," she said. "This [policy] supports people quitting and prevents people from starting."

I guess I'll quit staving off Parkinson's and hang up the old pipe if it's for the good of society. I'll just top off a stressful day with a V8 or a granola bar. Great.

  
joseph.pavlish@umontana.edu

**Correction:** In Wednesday's edition, the Kaimin misreported an alleged crime that took place near Missoula's Northside. The victim was allegedly shoved against a fence and sexually assaulted by a transient man in his 40's or 50's.

COLUMN

# Disturbing the peace

## No, really, I get these headaches

by Jed Nussbaum



Did you go to Hempfest this weekend?

Did you peruse the 98 percent hemp fiber T-shirts and impressive crystal collections? Did you learn that if we would have industrialized hemp 100 years ago there would have been no need for welfare, World War II or fossil fuels? Hemp, Hemp, Hooray!

Were you informed about all the distinct differences that separate hemp from cannabis, while browsing through the 5-foot bong, bubblers and vaporizers at the glass table?

Hold on now, that paraphernalia is strictly for medical use. That's right, finally a medicine we can smoke! The days of freebasing aspirin are over!

It's well-documented that everybody and his or her mother (literally) is cashing in on the medical marijuana explosion. A quick flip through the Independent reveals an ungodly amount of advertising for "kind" medical assistance, and prescriptions are handed out like Halloween candy. A friend of mine, a perfectly healthy 23-year-old, recently told me he set up his prescription through a 15-min-

ute Skype conversation with the doctor. At least he's honest (among his peers, at least) about not having any real disabilities; most cardholders my age have a veritable list of disabilities that it seems only THC can cure. Never before have we seen a generation so afflicted at so young an age.

It's not just users pulling the wool over doctors' eyes. While I was down at Caras Park Saturday, I was part of a small group of people corralled by a local caregiver who urged us to participate in a rally protesting an imposing monopolization of local dispensaries. To drive home the urgency of the issue, he asked the group of mostly college age kids: "You all have debilitating illnesses, right?" Wink wink, hint hint.

Settle down, stoners; I don't need you to all write in at once, extolling the medicinal virtues of cannabis, complete with statistics and charts. I'm not discrediting medical marijuana; that's an entirely different debate. What irritates me is that recreational pot smokers get their cards and pretentiously extol the virtues of smoking a plant while simul-

taneously making a mockery of the medical system they worked so hard to create. Recreational smokers don't bother me, but this industry insists that medical marijuana isn't about getting stoned; it's about helping people. However, the overflow of patients in nearly every state that allows this market suggests otherwise. Or are we really just that sick?

Should marijuana be legalized? Sure. The money spent on the "war on drugs" is outrageous, the prosecution for infractions absurd, and the laws make less sense than prohibition. Are there great medical attributes to smoking marijuana? Potentially. But if you believe that, then don't abuse the system that allows people who actually do need their card to get it. If you do that, you sap the validity out of your argument and push the legislation backwards, not forward.

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go look into getting my medical card. All these Kaimin columns are putting some pretty debilitating stress on my wrists. Not to mention the mental anguish ...

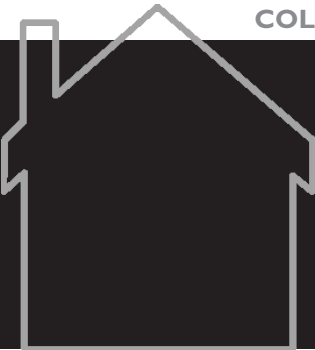
jedidiah.nussbaum@umontana.edu

COLUMN

# The Renters' Rant

## Finding a rental, made easy

by Beki Hartmann



*A weekly editorial brought to you by the ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center. As an agency of ASUM, they assist with tenant and landlord disputes, work politically to further renters' rights, and empower students to advocate for themselves.*

The rental scene is a difficult one for the more than

10,000 UM student renters for many reasons. For one, half of the Missoula population rents, and of those 30,000 people, 10,000 are students. The average percentage of rentals that are vacant at any time during the year is less than 5% (the national average is around 10%). These statistics mean Missoula renters have to work much

harder than most people in the U.S. to find suitable housing. Also, landlords have less incentive to charge reasonable rental rates and perform their duties and may prey on the naïveté of such a largely young renter population.

Secondly, finding a rental is further complicated by the

**See RENTERS, page 4**

# montanakaimin

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LETTERS to the EDITOR

COT: Sleeping on the Job

Once upon a time, a UM student dreamed of completing paperwork for her associate degree. Alas, four visits to the COT registrar were in vain (Out-Of-Office signs posted at every strange hour); repeated phone calls and messages were ignored (though the student stooped to pleading); and the much-needed advisor continued to be elusive (apparently enjoying hide-and-seek with unamused, desperate students).

Her fiancé, however, experienced much worse. All summer long, he was in and out of the COT trying to submit a credit-extension appeal before transferring to the main campus. The girl joined her fiancé literally a dozen times, but they always were met with empty offices: Sue Mullenhoff, Kathy Core, even Dean Barry Good, his secretary, and more. Nearly two months later—when the bewildered couple was just beginning to suspect kidnapping—the parties suddenly appeared and collected the man’s important documents.

And promptly lost them in the depths of the office.

The exasperated couple had to start all over. By then, time had run out, the man’s classes were canceled, and his financial aid revoked. The girl managed to finally contact someone sensible (thank you, Lynn and Brandy!), and he was reenrolled with many apologies.

However—and this is where the true tragedy occurs—the man’s preferred classes had been closed, and he had no choice but to change his entire class and work schedule. In addition, his financial aid was delayed, and so he was forced to sell several valuable family heirlooms to pay the bills for which it had been budgeted.

But this sad story is still not over—oh no! When his financial aid still did not arrive, he began calling—endless calls without a machine greeting (28 times last Thursday). One entire week passed without a single phone call even being answered.

Having had enough, the couple marched into the COT, stood at the empty FA counter, and—while they waited for service—called the office with their cell phones for kicks. The

office phones remained silent. The baffled couple was finally informed that all phones had been “turned off” because they were “very busy.”

And so, after discovering that the man’s financial aid was going to be delayed by yet another two weeks due to the COT’s initial mistakes, the incredulous couple left without an apology, without a solution, without their precious family heirlooms, and without anyone to hear their complaint.

The end.

COT staff: if you cannot perform the jobs for which you were hired, manage to function at the most critical time of semester, be in your offices during regular business hours, answer your phones, or even grant the very students who are paying your salary common courtesy, at least delete the “Your call is very important to us” assurance from your phone lines—which apparently don’t ring anyway.

In the meantime, COT, please continue to enjoy your working hours sleeping on a cot.

Missy Lacock  
junior, english major

BIG RIG  
From page 1

- The project will have no significant impacts on the environment;
- The project will have a significant impact, but with some work on the roads, it will be doable;
- The project will have a significant impact and more research is necessary in the form of an environmental impact statement.

“We don’t have the luxury to say, ‘This is what we want,’” Lynch said. “It isn’t our choice. The responses to the comments will decide what action we take.”

Missoula County Commissioners said late last month that they are prepared to sue the MDT if it issues permits to ExxonMobil. But according to Commissioner Jean Curtiss, the county may not be able to stop the project. Instead, Curtiss is fighting for more thorough planning.

“Their plans are lacking, and they’re lacking in a lot of areas,” Curtiss said. “They don’t address what happens when you have a big rig like this that takes up a whole two-lane highway if it breaks. They don’t have a plan to deal with that.”

According to Curtiss, there is a potential for three rigs to be in the Missoula area at a time. And, since they will take up a whole two-lane highway, this could cause dangerous traffic pileups.

She said if one of the rigs tips over or breaks down, the nearest cranes big enough to lift one rig are in Seattle and Portland.

“I don’t think people are getting exactly how huge these things are. They’re literally big buildings — four-wall metal structures with machinery inside of them. They’d be like moving three of your mother’s houses.”

The Missoula City Council is also trying to have its say. According to Councilman Roy Houseman, the Council adopted a temporary “emergency” increase in the costs related to oversize loads — from \$140 to \$200 for a permit. These permits, which typically are issued for moving houses, had not been updated in about 20 years. He added, the ExxonMobil project motivated the Council to increase the costs.

“The original idea was to increase the costs to make some money off the rigs for this potential permanent corridor, but we realized that we couldn’t charge every oversize load \$1,000 just for a permit,” Houseman said.

The Council is working to make the fee increases permanent and is discussing it in its public works committee.

“There’s an opportunity for a local government to impact a nation-wide issue, and it’s an exciting issue to be a part of,” Houseman said.

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FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**  
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

**ACROSS**

1 Piano pro  
6 Fizzy drink  
10 Kellogg School deg.  
13 UV ray absorber  
14 x and y, perhaps  
15 Blackberry lily, e.g.  
17 \*Powerful punch  
19 "Still Life With Old Shoe" artist  
20 Together, in music  
21 Ham  
23 Depict artistically  
26 \*Where the tight end is positioned, in football lingo  
29 Polar buildup  
31 Extremists  
32 West pointers, sometimes?  
33 Sulky state  
34 See 59-Down  
37 It prints many scheds.  
38 "Spartacus" Oscar winner  
41 Mined matter  
42 Sitcom pal of Fred  
44 Shades that fade in fall  
45 Bond trader's phrase  
47 Not completely  
49 Admirals' concerns  
50 \*Shot pioneered by Wilt Chamberlain  
53 Knife of yore  
54 Like "ASAP" memos  
55 Beer-making aid  
57 Kerouac's Paradise et al.  
58 Places where you can watch (and whose end can follow the ends of) the answers to starred clues  
64 "Don't change it"  
65 Liver nutrient  
66 Bother persistently  
67 Curly shape  
68 "Forget about it"  
69 Like an evening in a Frost title

**DOWN**

1 Rocky hill  
2 Weapon designer — Gal

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

17 18 19

20 21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

32 33 34 35 36

37 38 39 40 41

42 43 44 45 46

47 48 49

50 51 52 53

54 55 56

57 58 59 60 61 62 63

64 65 66

67 68 69

By David J. Kahn 9/16/10

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

A	B	B	A		S	N	U	B		C	O	L	E
S	O	A	R		A	C	U	R	A		A	P	E
T	W	I	C	E	D	A	I	L	Y		S	E	V
O	I	L		L	E	N	T		A	C	I	D	I
R	E	S	A	L	E			O	R	A	N		
			S	E	R	V	I	C	E	D	O	O	R
A	D	D	O	N		I	O	T	A	S		D	E
S	E	R	F		O	N	A			R	I	T	A
E	A	U		O	S	L	I	N		C	A	N	D
A	R	M	I	S	T	I	C	E	D	A	Y		
			C	H	A	N			I	C	E	D	I
S	A	L	A	A	M		B	A	S	H		R	N
E	M	I	R			P	O	L	I	C	E	D	O
M	E	N	U			E	W	E	R	S		I	O
I	R	K	S			D	E	W	Y		O	P	E

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33 Fab Four member  
35 Wax eloquent  
36 As such  
39 Gets going  
40 Batman before George  
43 Consumes  
46 Treaty subject  
48 Reliever's spot, for short  
49 Needing a 1-Across  
50 Hoo-ha

51 Really 16-Down  
52 Ben player on "Bonanza"  
56 Payroll figs.  
59 With 34-Across, country club feature  
60 Rider of Dinny the dinosaur  
61 In days past  
62 Untrained  
63 Place to serve slop

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PRESIDENTIAL WATCH

# Engstrom visits Butte



Jayne Fraser/Montana Kaimin

**UM presidential finalist** Royce Engstrom answers questions from faculty, staff and administrators at Montana Tech Wednesday afternoon.

## Provost finishes open forum schedule

Provost Royce Engstrom was the only finalist who did not withdraw from the search for the University of Montana’s new president. Interviews and campus forums are done.

- A recording of Provost Royce Engstrom’s speech of intent and audience questions from Monday night can be watched at [www.umd.edu/potumsearch/finalist.aspx](http://www.umd.edu/potumsearch/finalist.aspx) by clicking on “Open Forum for Campus Community.”
- Public comment on the finalist will be accepted until 5 p.m. Thursday. The online submission form is available at [www.umd.edu/potumsearch/feedback.aspx](http://www.umd.edu/potumsearch/feedback.aspx).
- Bill Franklin, a senior consultant from Academic Search, Inc. will compile the public comments this weekend.
- The Presidential Search Committee will meet Monday afternoon to develop a recommendation that will be forwarded to Commissioner of Higher Education Sheila Stearns and the Board of Regents.
- The Regents are working to schedule an extra discussion session next week, ideally before the regular board meeting Sept. 22-23 at Montana Tech in Butte.
- The Regents have set no deadline for when they will announce if they will hire Engstrom.
- If Engstrom is not hired, the committee will reconvene to discuss the search’s next step.
- A transition schedule will be planned as soon as a new president is affirmed.

Source: Presidential Search Committee meeting Wednesday night

MONTANA/IDAHO BRIEFS

# Billings gun stock robbed

Associated Press

BILLINGS — Law enforcement officials said 133 firearms, most of them handguns, were recently stolen from a Billings shipping company in one of the largest such heists in the state’s history. The Bu-

reau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives released details of the previously undisclosed August heist on Wednesday in hopes making the case public will lead to a breakthrough. A \$10,000 reward was offered for help solving the crime.

# Bears target cars, backyards

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Without their usual diet of berries and nuts as hibernation approaches, mama, papa and baby bears in the West are turning to cars and cabins and finding the left-

overs are juuuust right. Huckleberries, nuts and pine cones are in short supply this year because of poor growing conditions, so bears have taken to breaking into cars, nosing around backyards and raiding orchards.

## RENTERS From page 2

many rental scams found on Craigslist, one of the most popular sources for Missoula rental ads. Finally, for out-of-state students looking to get into rentals during the summer months, the situation has become more bleak because of a new policy many property management companies have adopted. They are no longer allowing people from out-of-state to rent without seeing the rental unit in person, thus requiring the student (and their co-signer) to make a costly trip to Missoula to secure a rental on top of the move in August.

With so many issues in finding rentals, the Renter Center has created the Off-Campus Housing Finder, which can be found online at [www.umd.edu/housingfinder](http://www.umd.edu/housingfinder). You can find houses, apartments, sublets, roommates, and even post an ad for yourself on the site.

One of the best things about

this site is that, unlike Craigslist, a staff member searches for listings that are inappropriate or obvious scams before items are posted. Renters can search listings based on important items like rent cost, neighborhood location, and if the unit is pet-friendly. This is open for use by the entire Missoula community.

For UM students looking for a roommate, just log in with your student Net ID! Now out-of-state students looking for roommates can rest assured that those answering their ads are fellow students as well.

**Beki Hartmann, Director**

*More questions about renting in Missoula? Having a tenant/landlord issue? See us at the Renter Center in ASUM in the UC. See us online at [www.umd.edu/asum/rentercenter](http://www.umd.edu/asum/rentercenter) or give us a call at 243-2017. The information in this editorial is not legal advice. If you need legal assistance, contact ASUM Legal Services.*

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MONTANA

# Leaders host hunger summit

Allison Maier  
Associated Press

Though none of them acted as though the task would be easy, leaders from across the state began the process of developing methods to end childhood hunger in Montana during a five-hour gathering Wednesday.

By 3 p.m., the walls of a classroom in Helena's Front Street Learning Center were decked out in sheets of paper with ideas written in marker. Several proposals came out of the brainstorming session: simplifying paperwork for assistance, integrating more cooking and nutrition classes into schools at an earlier age, funding rural grocery stores, amping up the breakfast program in public schools, and increasing the opportunities to get food to children over weekends and summer breaks.

On top of that, participants identified the need to launch a media and marketing campaign to educate the public — as well as policymakers — about the extent of the problem in Montana, possibly by working with children themselves. More than 85,000 children in the state live in households where there is not always enough food, according to Minkie Medora, chairwoman of the Montana Food Security Council.

The Montana Office of Public

Instruction and the Montana Food Security Council hosted the inaugural "Hunger Summit." Those in attendance included elected officials, representatives for Sens. Max Baucus and Jon Tester, and individuals from a range of businesses, foundations, food banks, public health services and the faith-based community. The session will result in a written five-year plan for addressing hunger concerns.

In the next few months, summit attendees and others from around the state will split into work teams that will each focus on a different aspect of the plan. It's an effort that began in January, when Medora approached state Superintendent Denise Juneau with the idea.

It's been several years since a hunger conference has been held locally, Medora said, and because taking on the entire issue of hunger across the state is daunting, the focus was narrowed down to children. Since the economy took a hit, the state has seen an increase in the number of people struggling to provide food for their families. Between January and June 2009, the Montana Food Bank Network served 96,606 children. That number jumped to 139,112 in 2010, Medora said.

More than 44 percent of food stamp recipients in the state are children, she said.

The problem will likely get worse before it gets better, she said, which is why it's time to start working to deal with the problem.

"We just can't sit back and say, 'Oh dear, people will be hungry,'" she said.

When children are hungry, they are more likely to get sick and develop chronic illnesses, in addition to experiencing behavioral problems, Medora said. These can affect their future prospects of completing school or continuing on to college, which in turn affects the income level they will have as adults, she said.

It's because of these concerns that the Office of Public Instruction got involved. It's important to ensure that children are ready to learn before they enter the classroom, Juneau said. Teachers can tell which students haven't had breakfast because they get tired midway through the morning, which is a peak learning time, she said. The number of students in need of free or reduced lunches or the summer lunch program has been on the rise for some time, she said.

"This is a very real problem in our state," she said.

With the numbers on the rise,

Juneau said, it's increasingly important to take action. She said she hoped the group of individuals gathered for the summit can find ways for various entities to more effectively coordinate their efforts to address the problem.

Before determining possible methods of action, the summit group worked to identify some of the barriers people in the state face when attempting to access food. These included the stigma those individuals feel when seeking help and the extensive paperwork necessary to do so, in addition to their lack of a job or a livable wage.

The state's geography is also a factor. Rural communities in Montana are sometimes referred to as "food deserts" because residents must travel long distances — between 25 and 75 miles, Medora said — to access a grocery store. Even though convenience stores might be one to 20 miles away, she said, those places are less likely to have nutritional food options and fresh produce.

Hunger is a hidden problem in the state, only recognized by the people who are affected by it, Medora said. Though Wednesday's efforts were the first in a long process, she was pleased with what came out of the summit.

"The ideas are just staggering. Incredible," she told the group.

**ASUM**  
**From page 1**

Upon her swearing in, Mackey was almost immediately nominated to fill a vacant position on the ASUM Transportation Committee. Although she said she doesn't have a lot of experience in the area, she said she has some ideas for potential improvement in UM's transportation system.

"The crosswalks along Arthur need some attention," Mackey said. "I can't walk across the street there without getting mowed down."

After Mackey's swearing-in, President Ashleen Williams announced Summers' resignation to a disappointed senate. Senators lamented the loss during the comment section of the meeting.

"[Summers] received one of the highest amounts of votes," said Hanson. "Obviously students wanted her to be here."

Williams cited the reasons for the resignation as a variety of time conflicts in addition to personal reasons. She also said that she has already filled the spot left vacant by Summers. The recommendation of the new senator will be made at the next ASUM meeting, which will take place in two weeks due to the Board of Regents meeting in Butte next week.

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# Q + A with Shann Schillinger

by Troy Warzocha



File Photo by Greg Lindstrom/Montana Kaimin

Shann Schillinger, left, and Alex Shaw, center, celebrate after a play in a game last year against South Dakota State.

With the National Football League making its return to stadiums and living rooms last Sunday, Griz fans had another reason to watch, because former Grizzly standout, safety Shann Schillinger, made his professional debut. Schillinger, drafted in the sixth round of April's draft by the Atlanta Falcons, received a four-year contract in June. He has since climbed into the backup free safety spot on the Falcons' depth chart. After his first taste of regular season professional football, the new Falcon spoke with the Kaimin about playing against the Steelers, settling in a new life, and his love for Big Sky country.

**Q: It must have been a mind-blowing experience playing on Sunday. What was it like playing against the Steelers in Pittsburgh?**

**A:** It was a very exciting experience. Obviously, to go to Heinz Field and play in an atmosphere like that in my first game – it's something that I'll never forget. Our veterans that have played in the NFL for a long time say that it was probably one of the best places you could play a game. In Pittsburgh, [with] all the tradition they have, to go in there and play; that was very exciting. The outcome wasn't the way we wanted, but it was really neat in my first game to go do that.

(Note: The Falcons lost to the Steelers 15-9 in overtime.)

**Q: Most people say that the NFL plays a lot faster than college. Knowing that, how have you been able to adjust to the speed of the game?**

**A:** Yeah it is [faster]. It's one of those things; you're out there, and if you think about it, it's too late. You gotta react and then just go with it and be confident with your decisions. It's taken, honestly, a lot of film study, just like college. There's a lot of adjusting and just knowing your roles, knowing what it takes every Sunday. A lot of it comes with practice, continuing to work at it, and you only get better if you continue to work. I feel like if I do that, I'll be heading in the right direction.

**Q: The Falcons seem to be a chic pick to win their division this year. How would you assess this year's team?**

**A:** I think this year we've got a few things going for us. I feel we're well-coached. Our head coach (Mike Smith) does a good job. He's very disciplined. Offensively, we've got a system that's very hard to prepare for — with shifts and motions that does a lot of physi-

cal things with our defense. We have a good, young quarterback (Matt Ryan) that's going to have a good year. The defense, I think, is well-coached as well. We do a lot of movement, which is hard for teams [to adjust to]. I feel like we have a lot of good guys around, but the NFL is so competitive and so close that any given Sunday the ball could go the right way or the wrong way and hopefully you just got to stay fortunate with injuries, get a break here and there and hopefully you'll like the result of what happens.

**Q: What has it been like adjusting to life in Atlanta?**

**A:** Pretty good, actually. People don't realize that our facility is an hour north of Atlanta, so I'm not really in the city much. It's really kind of a nice little community. It's like a small town in Montana. There's not a lot of traffic and so on and so forth. It's a nice area. I just got settled in my apartment, things are going well ... I like it down here, and it's been a transition that's been very smooth.

**Q: Your uncle Don Schillinger [superintendent and head coach of Baker High School's football team] is a big Packers fan. Have you seen him switch at all to the Falcons?**

**A:** [Laughs] You know, last I was in Baker he had a Falcons hat on. Maybe he's starting to change a little bit. Hopefully he does, I guess, but no. He's been a Packer fan a long time. I'm sure he's cheering for both [teams]; just hopefully when we play [the Packers] come November, he's cheering for the red and black.

**Q: When you first found out you made the 53-man roster, how did the Falcons let you know?**

**A:** You know, they really don't tell you ... That was the day I was getting stuff arranged and trying to get into

an apartment - doing those things - and I had a sense that I was going to be OK, but you never know. It's a funny league and anything can happen. I didn't get a call; then people started texting me, telling me congratulations, and I wasn't sure yet, so I didn't really text people back. And come the next day at practice my locker was with the big boys, so I assumed I made it there. It was relieving and exciting.

**Q: Was it a nerve-racking couple of days?**

**A:** It was. The whole process is kind of stressful, I guess, but you can only control what you can control. That's the thing I've learned from it. You can only control going out to practice, working hard and whatever happens, happens. It is stressful to a certain extent, but at the same time, if you worked as hard as you could, prepared like you could and it wasn't meant to be, so be it; there's nothing you could do. I felt that way about it. Like I said, I was fortunate to be in a good spot at the right time and I'm thankful to be on the 53 [man roster].

**Q: If you could say one thing to the Montanans who followed you and cheered for you, what would you say?**

**A:** I miss a lot of things about Montana. I appreciate everyone's support back in Montana, first of all. What a great state. That's definitely a group a people that I miss. It was good to be around it. I miss Montana football. Every Saturday it was something special. I appreciate what the fans did for me in my five years there, and it's hard to be away, but every chapter comes to an end, and I'm excited to be in Atlanta. I'm going to continue to work hard. Thank you to everyone in Missoula. Good luck to the Grizzlies, and hopefully their season will be a successful one.

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## Hernandez deserves Cy Young Award despite record

by Tyson Alger, Sports Editor

It's the middle of September, and once again the Northwest is without the thrill of competitive baseball. The Seattle Mariners, a popular pick in the preseason to go deep into the playoffs, haven't sniffed contention for three months. For all of the shortfalls this season, which include an anemic offense, the firing of manager Don Wakamatsu and the controversial trade of pitcher Cliff Lee, the M's have given fans only one reason to tune in this late in the year, albeit every fifth day.

Staff ace Felix Hernandez has been absolutely dominant this year. The 24-year-old Venezuelan leads the American League in ERA (2.39), strikeouts (214) and innings pitched (225.2)—most of these by a comfortable margin. Just by those numbers it would seem Hernandez should be

the front-runner for the Cy Young crown—that is, until you take into account his win-loss record. At 11–11, Hernandez sits far behind the New York Yankees' CC Sabathia and his league-leading 19 wins. In most years, a conversation debating the two award contenders would seem ludicrous. No way would somebody with less than 15 wins beat out a potential 20-game winner for baseball's top pitching prize.

But it seems that people are starting to realize how out of the hands a win for a pitcher can be. The Mariners have scored runs this season at a historically low pace. The team has scored an average of 3.95 runs a game when Hernandez takes the mound—the worst in the league among pitchers with 160 or more innings. Com-

pare that to the 7.18 runs the Yankees score for Sabathia.

Aside from the win-loss column, Hernandez owns Sabathia (3.03 ERA, 179 K, 217 IP) in every category. Geoff Baker, Mariners beat writer for the Seattle Times and head of the Northwest chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America, said it's because of Hernandez's dominance that he's finally turning heads.

As someone who's voted for the Cy Young in the past, Baker said that five years ago Hernandez—because of his record—wouldn't have been considered. But because of a movement toward looking at stats that better judge performances, Hernandez, in Baker's mind, should be the front-runner.

"His numbers are just too good to ignore," Baker said. "One of the most heard arguments is that he doesn't have

the knack to win. You can't win if your team can't score. Felix hasn't lost a single game in which his team has scored four or more runs. With that, knowing how to win goes out the window."

And don't consider Baker biased. Yes, he is the Mariners beat writer, but that hasn't swayed him in the past. He notoriously took heat from the Seattle faithful by excluding M's legend Edgar Martinez's name on his Hall of Fame ballot earlier this year.

Unlike the MVP award, which is generally given to players on winning teams, the Cy Young is strictly a performance-based title. Throw out Hernandez's misfortune of pitching for an offense that doesn't, in fact, produce offense, and you have an easy answer for who should be crowned at the end of the year.

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## FOOTBALL

# Transfer QB has big shoes to fill in Cheney

**A.J. Mazzolini**  
Montana Kaimin

Quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell lines up under his center, staring down the beefy nose tackle in front of him. He scans the defense, checking for blitzes, picking up on the defensive coverage of his receivers. The center snaps the ball into the passer's hands and Mitchell takes a few steps back in the pocket, surveying the open field. He sees his man, a tight end streaking across the middle who's gained some separation from the linebackers. Mitchell pulls the trigger, firing the ball at his target.

But the throw is low and off line. The football bounces harmlessly at the receiver's feet before rolling off into the secondary.

"Of course, I'm like the third worst quarterback in the game," Mitchell says with a chuckle.

"Yeah, but every time I play, I always play as you," says his brother Pat Honeycutt.

The siblings set down their Xbox controllers, having finished their session of NCAA Football 10, a recent edition of the popular college football series.

"Our favorite thing to do is play NCAA against each other," Mitchell says of his free time in his Cheney, Wash., where he now lives with two of his brothers.

In the game, Mitchell plays

for Southern Methodist University. But in real life, the 6-foot-2 quarterback from Katy, Texas pilots the offense for Eastern Washington University where he transferred for his junior season.

Life has been different for Mitchell in the last year. A shoulder injury sidelined the two-year starter last October, opening the door for freshman Kyle Padron. After Mitchell's recovery, Padron kept the starting job, leaving a healthy Mitchell on the bench.

The Texan faced a football crossroads. He could stay at Southern Methodist, located "in the heart of Dallas," Only 250 miles from his hometown, or he could transfer.

"I wasn't the kind of guy to be bitter," said Mitchell, 20. "I had to cheer [Padron] on and be the backup. But I'm a football player, and that's what I do, so I had to play again."

His mind made up, he announced in January his intentions to jump to Eastern Washington, a school that had recruited him out of high school.

He knew he wouldn't be alone in Washington. Two of his brothers attend the school, including older brother Cory Mitchell, one of the team's wide receivers. Part of the decision to transfer involved finding a place where the two could play together again as they had at

Katy High School.

"It's awesome to be able to run out onto the field and realize you're not the only guy," Bo said. "Having Cory on the sidelines really helps; he's been my mentor and someone I've looked up to my entire life."

The familiarity between the brothers shows up in practice. Having spent years tossing a football around in their yard, Cory said they clicked immediately on Eastern's turf.

"We have a real chemistry out there," the 22-year-old receiver said. "It's something that can't be coached. [Bo] always knows where I'm going to be and he knows my speed real well, so we hook up a lot."

"It's kind of surreal to us that we're actually in Washington together," Cory added.

Back on the field, quarterback Mitchell's transition into a new offense has been made easier, thanks to the talent in his backfield. Speedy running back Taiwan Jones, a member of the Walter Payton Award watch list for best offensive player in the FCS, takes a lot of pressure off the QB. Mitchell said having the defensive back-turned-offensive dynamo lined up behind him gives him extra support to lean on during his learning phase.

Jones' play-making abilities open up the field for the passing game as well, Mitchell said.

"I'm starting to get used to



Courtesy of Eastern Washington University

**EWU Quarterback** Bo Levi Mitchell will face Montana's blitzing defense Saturday afternoon in Cheney, Wash.

just throwing a screen and him taking it 60 yards," he said. "I love having a guy that consistently moves the chains."

But to effectively replace

graduated quarterback Matt Nichols, Mitchell will need to do more than just get first downs. Nichols was regarded as one of the

See FOOTBALL, page 8

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## FOOTBALL From page 7

best passers in Big Sky Conference history. During his tenure at EWU, the four-year starter broke conference records in career pass completions (996), yards (12,616) and tied Montana great Dave Dickenson for touchdowns (96).

Third-year coach Beau Baldwin said he's not expecting earth-shattering numbers from Mitchell quite yet. He said his offense has tried to simplify things to allow Mitchell to get comfortable.

"No matter who came in here, no one was going to fill [Nichols'] shoes, and we know that," Baldwin said. "I just told him to relax and stay within the flow of the offense, and he picks up on things every day."

And what advice did the departed Nichols have for his replacement?

"He said 'Whenever you can, get the ball to No. 22 [Jones], and let him do his thing,'" Mitchell said.

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# Illegal drug use up sharply last year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The rate of illegal drug use rose last year to the highest level in nearly a decade, fueled by a sharp increase in marijuana use and a surge in ecstasy and methamphetamine abuse, the government reported Wednesday.

Gil Kerlikowske, the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, called the 9 percent increase in drug use disappointing but said he was not surprised given "eroding attitudes" about the perception of harm from illegal drugs and the growing number of states approving medicinal marijuana.

"I think all of the attention and the focus of calling marijuana medicine has sent the absolute wrong message to our young people," Kerlikowske said in an interview.

The annual report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found marijuana use rose by 8 percent and remained the most commonly used drug.

Mike Meno, a spokesman for the pro-legalization Marijuana Policy Project, said the survey is more proof that the government's war on marijuana has failed in spite of decades of enforcement efforts and arrests.

"It's time we stop this charade and implement sensible laws that would tax and regulate marijuana the same way we do more harmful — but legal — drugs like alcohol and tobacco," Meno said.

On a positive note, cocaine abuse continues to decline, with use of the drug down 32 percent from its peak in 2006.

About 21.8 million Americans, or 8.7 percent of the popu-

lation age 12 and older, reported using illegal drugs in 2009. That's the highest level since the survey began in 2002. The previous high was just over 20 million in 2006.

The survey, which was being released Thursday, is based on interviews with about 67,500 people. It is considered the most comprehensive annual snapshot of drug use in the United States.

Other results show a 37 percent increase in ecstasy use and a 60 percent jump in the number of methamphetamine users. In the early 2000s, there was a widespread public safety campaign to warn young people about the dangers of ecstasy as a party drug, but that effort declined as use dropped off.

"The last few years, I think we've taken our eye off the ball on ecstasy," Kerlikowske said.

Meth use had been drop-

ping after a passage of a 2006 federal law that put cold tablets containing pseudoephedrine behind pharmacy counters. But law enforcement officials have seen a rise in "smurfing," or traveling from store to store to purchase the medicines, which can be used to produce home-made meth in kitchen labs.

Kerlikowske attributed the rise in meth abuse to more people getting around the law and an increase in meth coming across the border with Mexico.

The rise in marijuana use comes as California voters prepare to decide in November whether to legalize the drug. An Associated Press-CNBC poll earlier this year found that most Americans still oppose legalizing marijuana, but larger majorities believe it has medical benefits and want the government to allow its use for that purpose.



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